

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of May 30, 2005**

1. **Tree Planting:** Last week the City did a spring tree planting with approximately 37 large trees planted in the right-of-way and in the parks. The trees were around 2 ½ inches in diameter and approximately 10-12 feet tall. The species included: copper beech, swamp white oak, redbud, yoshino cherry, snow goose cherry, fringetree, and maackia. Yard By Yard Inc. was contracted to do the planting and the trees were purchased from the Brooke Run tree farm. *(City Arborist)*
2. **Takoma-Piney Branch Park Improvements (Wards 1 and 4):** Updated plans for the Takoma-Piney Branch Park improvements will be discussed at the City Council worksession on Monday night, June 6, at approximately 9 pm. A resolution regarding those plans is scheduled to be adopted by the Council at its meeting of June 20. (Citizen comment on the 20th is encouraged.) The plan is then scheduled to go before the Planning Board on July 7. If accepted, improvements to the park are likely to be added to the County's Capital Improvement Program to allow for future funding. For more information, contact Ellen Masciocchi at Ellen.Masciocchi@mncppc-mc.org or 301-650-2867. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
3. **Street Repair Report (Wards 1, 3 & 6):** This week the City contractor continued concrete work on Wildwood Avenue (between Jackson and Kirklynn Avenue), Ward 6, and Kirklynn Avenue (between Wildwood and Kennewick Avenue), Ward 6. The Maple Avenue speed bumps were completed and painting of the crosswalks at Maple and Tulip were completed, Ward 1. The Westmoreland and Walnut intersection had crosswalks painted for the new sidewalk ramp and the retaining wall was halfway completed, Ward 3. In addition several areas were backfilled again due to erosion or settlement. Those areas included portions of Dundalk, Buffalo and Maple Avenues. *(Public Works)*
4. **Concrete Work (Ward 6):** Next week we plan to complete the Westmoreland wall and complete the concrete repairs on Wildwood and Kirklynn Avenues. Concrete work is scheduled to begin on Erskine Avenue including the installation of a short section of sidewalk to connect existing sidewalk from New Hampshire Avenue to 13th Street. *(Public Works)*
5. **Street Restoration (Ward 6):** Residents on Lockney Avenue, Hammond Avenue and Kennewick Avenue were given the opportunity to vote on whether or not they wanted the City to install traffic circles when the planned street restoration work began there this summer. 10 votes were received, the majority favored the installation of the traffic circles. The intersections of Lockney and Kennewick and Lockney and Hammond were proposed as good candidates for traffic circles due to their large size (75 foot wide intersections), complaints of speeding traffic, and lack of public garden space in the area. This work will be scheduled in July. *(Public Works)*
6. **Street Work (Wards 1 & 3):** Milling and resurfacing of Baltimore Avenue (from Philadelphia to New York), Buffalo Avenue (from New York to Albany), Dundalk Avenue - Ward 1, and First Avenue - Ward 3, is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, June 9 & 10. Paving of those same streets will take place the next week. *(Public Works)*

7. **Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1 & 3):** Construction on the Old Town Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project has been delayed until later this month as Staff continues to work with the County's Permitting Department to secure required permits and address minor revisions to the plans required by the State Highway Administration. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **Laurel Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1 & 3):** Work on the median is expected to continue this coming week, weather permitting, as the Laurel Avenue project progresses. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. **New Staff Member - Code Enforcement Division:** Ms. Janice DeRight will be joining the City's Housing and Community Development as its new Program Assistant in the Code Enforcement Division on Monday, June 20. Ms. DeRight brings over twenty years of office management, clerical, and bookkeeping experience to the position. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. **7610 Maple Avenue (Ward 4):** On Wednesday, June 2, the City was notified that the Fire Marshal, following an inspection of 7610 Maple, had found serious deficiencies in the building's fire/smoke detection system and was initiating a 24 hour fire watch. An alarm company was retained the following day. The system was repaired and the fire watch lifted at 12:30 on Thursday. Thanks to the professional and persistent efforts of the County's Fire Marshal and DHCA Code Enforcement staff, the 25 families living in the building were able to remain in their homes. The cost of the fire watch will be paid by the City's HCD Department and assessed to the property owner. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Program (Ward 2):** The City was notified this week that 7727 Carroll Avenue, a 3-unit rental property has been placed on the market for sale for \$600,000. The tenants have been notified of their rights to purchase. Currently, there is no third party contract. Staff learned this past week that 717 Sligo Creek Parkway, a 12-unit property selling for \$670,000 went to closing on May 26, 2005. The tenants had been given their first opportunity to purchase in November 2003. The process has been long and arduous however in February 2005, the tenant association decided to assign their rights to purchase to Community Home Mortgage Services, Inc. who agreed to acquire, renovate and convert the property to condominiums. The process for conversion will take at least a year. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. **Technology Funds:** The non-competitive grant application for technology funds earmarked for the Takoma Police Department was delivered this week. Among items identified to be supplied through this grant are: digital video cameras for six cruisers; digital photography equipment, data voice recorder and self-contained evidence drying cabinet. *(Police)*

13. **Crime Report (Wards 3 & 6):** Criminal Investigations reports that two Langley Park juveniles were arrested and charged as adults in a Nov. 11, 2004 armed robbery in the 1100 block of University Blvd. (Ward 6). The youths were also charged by Montgomery County with an unrelated car-jacking. An adult male was charged with burglary that occurred on May 11, 2005, in the 6600 block of Westmoreland Avenue (Ward 3). *(Police)*

14. **C-SAFE/Citizens on Patrol:** On Wednesday May 26, 2005, CSAFE teamed up with Prince George's County Police Department to conduct a foot patrol with Langley Park Apartment Property Managers. As a result, 2 warrants and 4 arrests took place. (Police)

15. **Nuisance Abatement (Wards 2, 3, & 4):** The Nuisance Abatement Specialist has been receiving and responding to numerous complaints regarding dogs off-leash in Spring Park, Ed Wilhelm Park and the area of Garland/Trescott (Wards 2,3 & 4). Additional complaints at the Ed Wilhelm Park related to owners not cleaning up after their pets. Residents should remember that a new ordinance levies a fine of \$200 for unleashed canine. (Police)

16. **Traffic Enforcement (All Wards):** Traffic enforcement details were run throughout the city including New Hampshire, Piney Branch, Flower, and Ethan Allen. About 73 percent of the stops resulted in citations, with one arrest on traffic-related charges. (Police)

17. **In-House Promotions:** Lakya Coles, formerly an intern, has been selected as a staff assistant, succeeding Norma Falcon. Danyelle Gallop, formerly a night dispatcher, has been selected as the Warrants/Validation Coordinator, succeeding Pam Taylor, who moved to a position with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department. (Police)

18. **Officers in Training:** On Tuesday, two officers attended Counterterrorism training, including vehicle search techniques, sponsored by the Montgomery County Police Department. One investigator attended a C-Safe meeting (Ward 6). (Police)

19. **Seat Belt Safety (Ward 2):** As part of the Chief's Challenge seat belt enforcement campaign, the COP Team conducted a night time seatbelt enforcement detail on May 25 at Ethan Allen and Jackson (Ward 2). All vehicles heading westbound were stopped and advised that they were being stopped as the result of a seatbelt checkpoint. Of an estimated 300 vehicles, 19 were found in violation. Seven warnings and 13 state citations were issued including one citation for failure to transport a child in a safety seat. (Police)

20. **Silver Foxes:** We had a full van of seniors who enjoyed viewing the beautiful cherry blossoms on a day trip to "Kenwood" in April. We also enjoyed a bountiful buffet lunch afterwards at the Mayflower Buffet. This month we were thrilled that Pauline Millone invited the seniors to her home for another Italian dinner treat. We had twenty people in attendance and all had a grand time. (Recreation)

21. **Promoting Recreation:** Program Manager Carey Antoszewski attended a camp fair at the Essex House last week to promote the Takoma Park Recreation Department's summer programs. (Recreation)

22. **All Grown Up:** The Recreation Staff is proud to announce the graduation from Blair High School of two part time staff members, Alycia and Tamea Stover. The twins have been familiar faces as they participated in our programs in elementary and middle school, volunteered for countless hours with the department, and eventually became employed at the day camps and the Recreation Center. Both young women are headed off to college in the fall! Congratulations to them!!! (Recreation)